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Obituary; 2019-06-13; Bonner, Johnny

Hopewell Baptist Church

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Celebrating the Life of
Johnny Banner



Sunrise
December 6, 1950

Sunset
June 13, 2019

Wake 10:00 AM
Homegoing Celebration 11:00 AM

Hopewell Baptist Church
1301 Fillmore Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14211

Pastor Dennis L Lee, Jr.
Officiating

~~~ ORDER OF CELEBRATION ~~~

"WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT: THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL
OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS:
ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD."
MATTHEW 25:23

Processional and Viewing

The Family

Wake 10:00 am

Receiving of Friends

Homegoing Celebration 11:00 am

Selection

Hopewell Choir

Scripture

Old Testament

Psalms 23

New Testament

John 14

Prayer of Comfort

From the Pulpit

Solo

Sis. Mary Ross

Reflections on Bro. Bonner

(2 minutes please)

Acknowledgements and Obituary

Selection

Hopewell Choir

Eulogy

Pastor Dennis Lee, Jr.

Recessional

~~~ OBITUARY ~~~

Johnny Lee Bonner was born on December 6, 1950 in Stoney Creek, VA to the late Johnnie Lee Bonner and Willa Lee Bonner. The family relocated to Buffalo, NY in the early 1950's in pursuit of a better life. Johnny accepted Christ at an early age and joined the Hopewell Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. J.F.D. Lyles, where he served as an Usher and sang in the choir.

Bro. Johnny attended Emerson Vocational High School. He graduated in 1969. In 1970, while attending Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, Johnny was drafted at the age of 19 into the US Army and was forced to fight in the Vietnam War. Upon his return Johnny continued his education and was employed in the Buffalo Public School System as a Teacher's Aid.

In 1975, Johnny married his first and only love, Loretta Brown. Two children were created from that union - Damario and Nakesha. Johnny was determined to give back to his community and gained employment with the Buffalo Fire Department as a fire fighter for over a decade. He worked in that capacity until his health prevented him from continuing. He was also the proud owner of Veterans Deli where he employed many family members and neighborhood youth. He gave all veterans a discount. Johnny was a jack of all trades, and very gifted using many tools; skills he learned working alongside his father. He was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in need. He was also a spiritual champion and his faith sustained him during hard times.

Always learning, Johnny became a certified herbalist. He loved to dance and was fancy on his feet. He and his baby sister, Yvonne, were known to '*set it off*' on the dance floor. Johnny loved to dabble as a DJ providing music at family functions and events. He was filled with wisdom and always willing to drop some of that knowledge on others. He had a way with words to bring all who listened to a silence. He also provided encouragement and spiritual guidance. He was an excellent story teller and very animated, capturing the attention of those to whom he spoke. On June 13, 2019, after a long and courageous fight with an illness, our Heavenly Father called him from labor to rest.

Johnny was the eldest son of seven children. Five siblings proceeded him in death: Dorothy Bonner, Nancy Bonner, Jessie Bonner, Yvonne Bonner and Michael Bonner. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Loretta Bonner; one daughter, Nakesha Bonner; one son, Damario Bonner; his mother, Willa Bonner; one brother, Marvin Bonner; two granddaughters, Nala Bonner, Ki'Ra Bonner; five grandsons, Elijah Bonner, Jabril Bonner, Jakari Wallace, Aseer Bonner and Shamel Bonner; two god-daughters, Dawn Miller and Shauna Jones; a special friend of 40+ years and Vietnam Conrad, 'Bro. Hump' Jerry Humphrey; and fire fighter, Michael Brown; as well as a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Courageous warrior loving
father, son, brother, uncle,
cousin and friend

On time whenever you
needed him

Notorious for dropping
knowledge

Recognized the power of
prayer

Always a good husband and
father

Devoted father

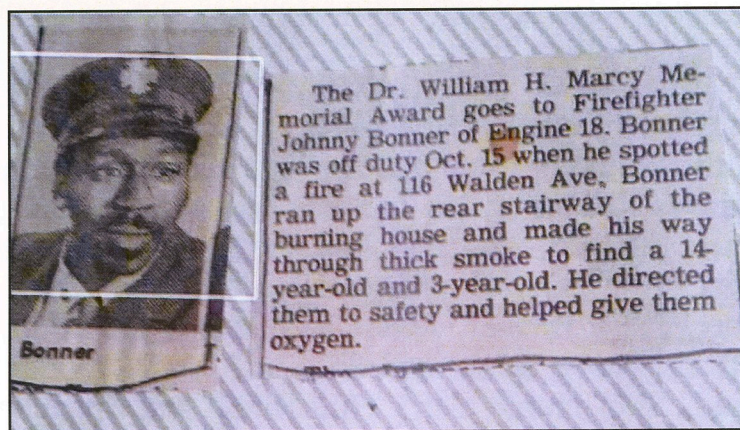
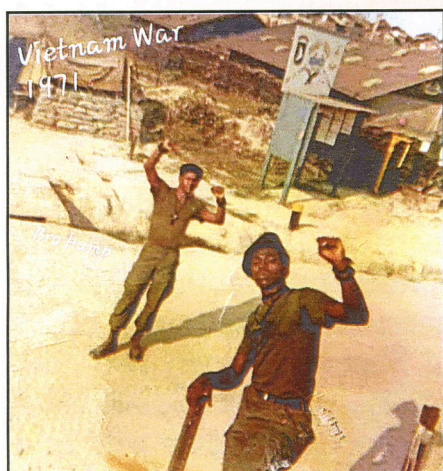
Soul Brother #1

Inquisitive consistently seeking
knowledge

Much love giving and much
love received

Brother Me

Absent from the body is to be
present with the Lord



" My work is through, my race is run, my battles over. I heard God's call, come home I've left my charge to thee.

God saw the road was getting rough. The hills were hard to climb. He gently closed those loving eyes and whispered, "peace be thine".

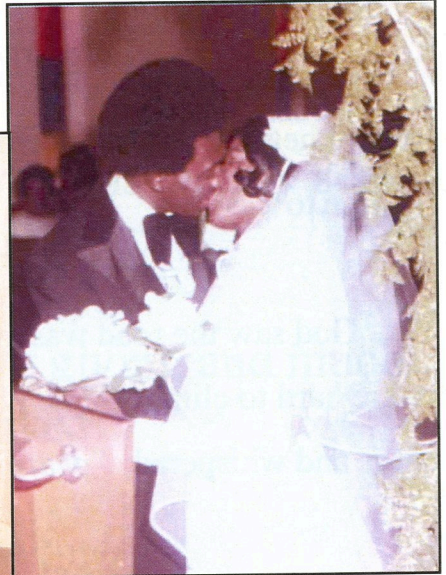
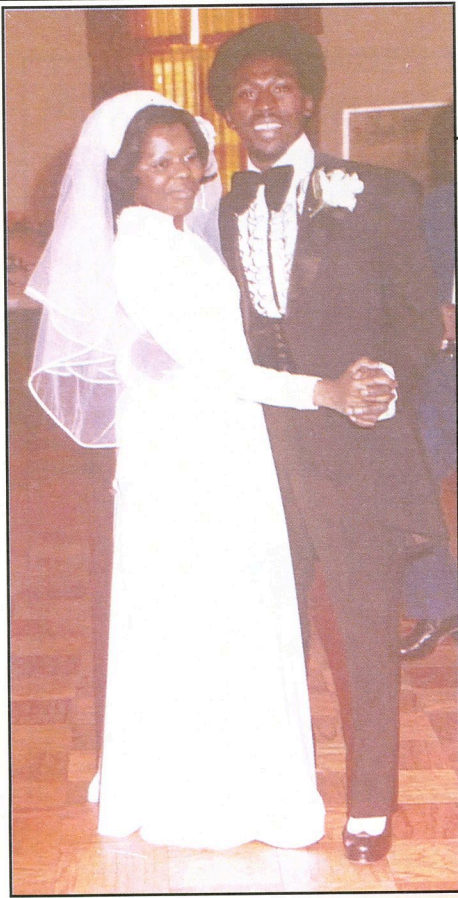
The weary hours, the days of pain, the sleepless nights are passed, the ever patient worn out of frame has found sweet rest at last".

- Author unknown

To My Beloved Son,

You walked the walked and talked the talk. You fought a good fight. You were a loving, strong, caring and compassionate Man. God saw you were getting tired and now you are safe in His arms. I will truly miss every morning and you saying, "Ma, did you make breakfast? " and "Ma, did you make some fresh coffee?". Your spirit will forever be in my heart and by the Grace of God I'll continue the fight!

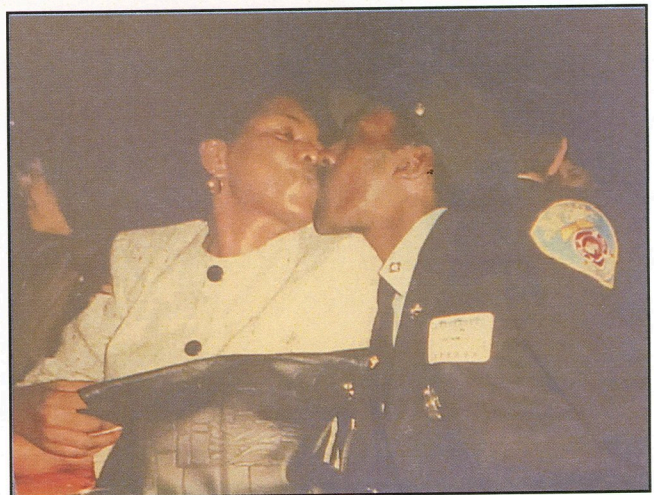




My Dear Husband John,

I have loved you for as long as I can remember. We have shared so much together, good times and not so good times; but no matter what our love remained. The bond we shared only we truly understood. Words could never express the sorrow I am feeling today knowing that I have to go on without you. I know you were in pain for far too long and God thought it best to move you from labor to rest. You and our love will continue to live on through our offspring. They are all truly a reflection of what we shared. Until we meet again, I love you forever.

Your Wife, Lo



To My Father,

May God be pleased with his soul and grant him peace.
Salute to the one we loved and affectionately called 'Simba'.
Simba, in its native tongue means Lion... and Pops walked
the concrete jungle as one.

He planted seeds unbeknownst to me as a child that later be-
came pillars for me as a husband and father of 6. As a recipi-
ent of countless hours of conversation (ya'll know my father
could talk), I gladly except the passing of the torch (his wis-
dom) and carry it on as his lives through me and his grand
children. Amen.

Simba-San Damarío



To My Papa-San Simba,

Sitting here contemplating on what to write in reference to our relationship. A long written drawn out story would take a lifetime explaining a father-daughter bond as solid as ours. First and foremost, I give thanks to the most high for your creation. Your soul, heart and Godly spirit has always been so pure. It is very rare that you find a man such as yourself and a Black household with both parents. I'm blessed to have witnessed what life was like as a family. You put family first, making sure your wife and children were taken care of. Even through Schuele Street and tough times you protected, provided and lead our household. You lived life long enough for my son to understand some real man qualities and teachings. I thank you for loving me unconditionally, giving me your entire face (LOL) and leaving me with the most valuable gift a daughter could ask for (jewels and gems) that knowledge you dropped will forever be with me. Comblip!?

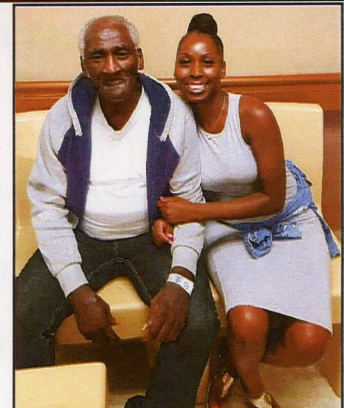
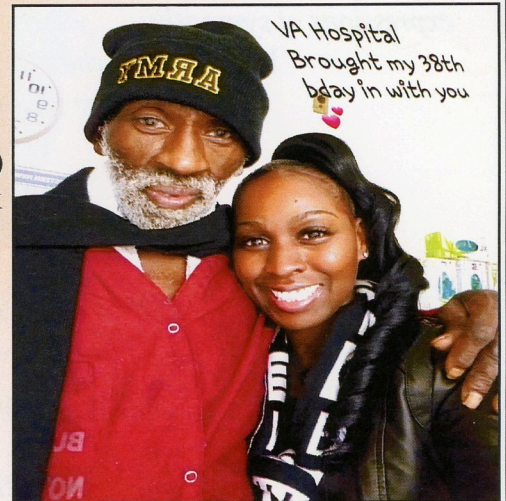
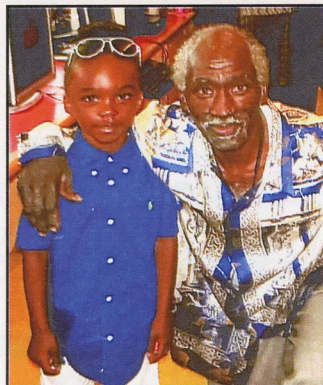
Love you Always and Forever, your one and only 'Baby Girl'



Grandpa,

You are the best male role model in
the world. I'm going to miss you
and our family dollar runs.

Jakari Wallace



Pallbearers

Marquell Torres
Malcolm Evans, Sr.
Keante' Hester

Shakuan Gladden
Lamar Williams
Dwayne Gillison, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Nephews

Flower Bearers

Nieces

Special Thanks

For those who have come to share their love and celebrate with us today....

For those who visited us through whispers of prayer, calls, cards, emails, food, flowers, and other expressions of sympathy.....words seem inadequate when thinking how to show our gratitude.

We ask that when tomorrow comes you will continue to Pray for us.

We are thankful and to Jesus who provides life....

We are Blessed.

The Family of Johnny Bonner

Care of Our Loved One Entrusted to

T. L. Pickens Mortuary
66 East Utica Street, Buffalo, NY 14209

Forest Lawn Cemetery
1411 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

REPAST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INTERMENT

AT THE A.D. PRICE SENIOR RESIDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER

450 JEFFERSON AVENUE, BUFFALO, NY 14204